

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2631 without my signature.

California has several strong pest prevention, control, and eradication programs that serve as models for other states and countries. We have implemented numerous Memorandum of Understandings and cooperative agreements among agencies to assist in combating these threats to our environmental and agricultural resources. Yet more needs to be done. I am directing Secretaries Kawamura and Chrisman to review existing invasive species prevention and eradication efforts, identify opportunities for federal funding, and make recommendations to me on ways to enhance cooperation and effectiveness by December 31, 2004.

This measure establishes the Invasive Species Council which is designed to study and develop policy recommendations for the prevention and eradication of invasive species. This bill creates an additional costly layer of bureaucracy, including unfunded mandates, at a time when we are promoting government efficiency.

For these reasons I am unable to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger